



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Testimony on rHB 5531

An Act Concerning The Care And Treatment Of Persons With A Mental Illness Or Substance Use Disorder.

Judiciary Committee

March 18, 2016

Chairmen Coleman and Tong, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas, and members of the Judiciary Committee. I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify on **Raised HB 5531**, which seeks to provide authority to a conservator appointed by the Probate Court to consent to forced medication of an individual under their care in certain circumstances. I do not support the bill as currently drafted.

I respectfully ask the Committee to amend **rHB 5531** to provide authority to Probate Courts to require a medical evaluation of an individual with a substance use disorder or mental disability under certain circumstances. I offer the following suggestions to the Committee on the possible parameters for the evaluation. The evaluation should not exceed 72 hours and the Probate Courts determine that the individual poses a danger to self or others. The Probate Court should have this authority if the individual does not consent to the evaluation or is incapable of providing consent.

I welcome further discussions on the proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Yaccarino